



Corporate Headquarters

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October 7, 2019

To: Federal Communications Commission
From: Oklatel Communications, Inc.
Re: Forbearance Notification
WC Docket No. 11-42 – Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization

Oklatel Communications, Inc. (Oklatel; SAC 432013) hereby notifies the FCC that it is availing itself of forbearance relief granted by the *Lifeline Modernization Order* from the obligation to offer Lifeline-supported broadband Internet access service.¹

Oklatel is an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) that receives Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) II support in Oklahoma. The Company elects forbearance relief for those census blocks in its study area that are not funded under A-CAM II. The Company does not receive high-cost support for those unfunded census blocks and is not subject to broadband public interest obligations in those blocks. What follows is the information the Wireline Competition Bureau has requested in these notifications.²

1. *Carrier Name*: Oklatel Communications, Inc.

2. *ETC Designation Information*

- a. *ETC Designation Order*: Oklahoma Corporation Commission; In the Matter of the Application of ALLTEL Oklahoma, Inc., et al, for Designation as Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support Pursuant to Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Application of GTE Southwest, GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Arkansas Incorporated for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to the FCC Universal Service Report and Order;

¹ *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al., Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962, 4074-75, paras. 309, 311, 312 (2016) (*Lifeline Modernization Order*).

² *Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance Regarding Filing Procedures for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Seeking to Invoke Forbearance Granted by Lifeline Modernization Order*, WC Docket No. 11-42, Public Notice, 31 FCC Rcd 12672 (2016).

Application of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to the FCC Universal Service Report and Order; Cause PUD Nos. 970000522, 970000515, 970000530; Order No. 418436; December 3, 1997.

Note: Oklatel was designated as an ETC under the name Oklahoma Telephone and Telegraph, Inc. The Company changed its name to Oklatel Communications, Inc. in 2012.

- b. *Designating Authority:* Oklahoma Corporation Commission
 - c. *Type of Designation:* High-cost support recipient (*i.e.*, not Lifeline-only)
 - d. *Date of ETC Designation:* December 3, 1997
3. *Areas Where ETC Seeks Forbearance:* The Excel file that accompanies this notification contains a list of the census blocks, in numerical order by FIPS code, where Oklatel is availing itself of forbearance relief. The listed census blocks are all those within the Company's ETC-designated service area that are not funded under A-CAM II.
4. *Date and Reason for Change:* Oklatel received its first A-CAM II support payment on September 30, 2019. Therefore, as of that date, the Company no longer receives high-cost support for census blocks within its designated service area that are not funded under the model and is not subject to broadband public interest obligations in those blocks.
5. *Information on Areas Where Carrier Elects to Offer Broadband:* Notwithstanding the forbearance relief Oklatel is claiming for its census blocks that do not receive A-CAM II support, the Company still intends to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in those blocks to the extent qualifying service is available.

Please feel free to contact me at 254-893-4600 or toney.prather@totelcom.net if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Toney Prather', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Toney Prather
President